

NEWS
Two former Frogs get ready to play in Super Bowl XLII. **TOMORROW**



FEATURES
Will the new mob movie "Smokin' Aces" blow you away? **PAGE 4**



SPORTS
See how the men's basketball team fared against the San Diego State Aztecs. **PAGE 6**



TCU DAILY SKIFF

THURSDAY

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Comedy troupe finds performance space in ballroom

By MICHELLE EUPERIO
Staff Reporter

After losing its performance space last semester and bouncing from location to location each week, Senseless Acts of Comedy has finally found a permanent home.

SAC will perform its first show of the semester Thursday in the Student Center Ballroom, said Michael Flusche, a junior advertising/public relations major and SAC president.

In the past, the student comedy troupe has performed at Frog Theater,

Moudy Building North, the Sid Richardson Building and even in the Student Center Lounge.

Last semester, after Cyndi Walsh, director of student organizations, informed the group it was no longer allowed to perform in Moudy, the group was left without a performance space.

The troupe protested its removal from Moudy by wearing tin foil, wigs and paper bags to look "homeless," Flusche said.

"We were kicked out of

Moudy," said Justin Kirchoff, senior criminal justice major and SAC member. "We messed around with some things, and it was our fault. We gave up on fighting and ended up at the Ballroom, which has been my favorite place to perform."

Flusche said he is looking forward to performing in the Student Center.

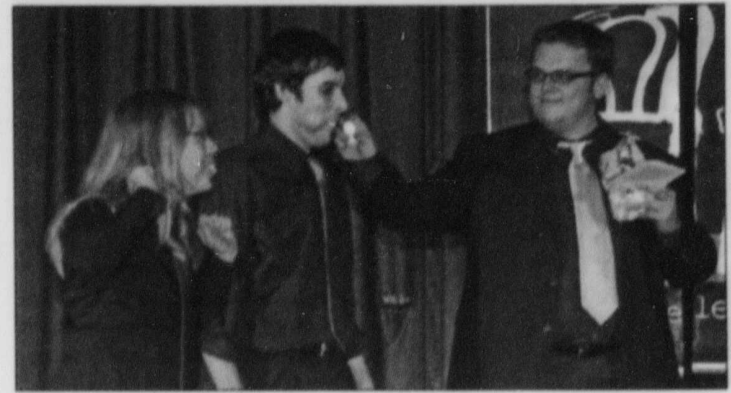
"I'm really excited about performing in the Ballroom," Flusche said. "It is a really great venue. It's the best place to have performances."

This semester, SAC will incorporate new ideas into their shows, including different sketch shows and doing dubs over movies, Flusche said.

"We are trying to change the format of the show, make it more fan-friendly and entertaining," Flusche said. "We want to master the art of improv to make a better show."

Though the group has gone through many lineup

See SAC, page 2



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor
Senior Ryan Motter (right) stuffs marshmallows into the mouth of senior Justin Kirchoff while playing a game during a Senseless Acts of Comedy show. Sophomore Samantha Hoover struggles to speak with a mouthful of marshmallows.

Kitchens give more options to the needy

By MICHELLE NICOUD
Staff Reporter

From a young age, people are taught to help the needy. If approved at TCU, a project called Campus Kitchens would do just that.

Campus Kitchens, a student-initiated program currently at 11 universities, takes unused and donated food from universities and cooks it for a designated beneficiary for a minimum of three years, said Rick Flores, manager of Dining Services.

Schools with thriving Campus Kitchens projects include Marquette and Wake Forest. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, Dillard University, in New Orleans, also hosted the program, Flores said.

Senior social work majors Lauren Love, Laura Hagadone, Heather Pruessner, Stephanie Sherwood and Quanesha Speed proposed the idea to dining services in Fall 2005 as part of a class assignment to address a social problem locally.

"We realized that food and people who were hungry in our community was a big issue that could be addressed by TCU," Love said.

Flores said the success of the program depends on the commitment of the student volunteers who start it. Dining services would only provide instruction on how to cook the food and space to prepare it, he said.

Some ways to promote the project on campus include encouraging Greeks to fulfill their service requirement through the program and asking professors of health-based classes such as nutrition or athletics for support, Hagadone said.

The faculty and Student Government Association support for Campus Kitchen exists, but space is the main obstacle, Hagadone said.

"The current dining facility is pretty small," Hagadone said. "They barely have enough room for all the things they need to do in the kitchen now,

See KITCHENS, page 2

A NEW CHAPTER



Official: New bookstore plans to be finalized within weeks

By ERICK MOEN
Staff Reporter

When the TCU Bookstore caught fire last year, the plans for renovation were cast in as much haze as the night itself.

Now, Don Mills, vice chancellor for student affairs, said design and logistical elements will be finalized within the next few weeks for the new bookstore. He said it will become an icon of the university.

The fire produced an opportunity to design, from the ground up, something that would really represent TCU, said Brian Gutierrez, vice chancellor for finance and administration.

The new store will more than double the size of its predecessor and boast an expanded cafe, a mezzanine with study area, wireless Internet access and an outdoor patio, said Lissa Lewis, general manager of the bookstore.

"It will be a cornerstone both for the campus and the community,"

Lewis said.

The new building will have a larger street presence than the previous store, stretching from Berry Street to University Drive and encompassing two stories and 34,000 square feet, according to the Physical Plant Web site.

Lewis said the groundbreaking ceremony, tentatively scheduled for March 4, will complete a four-month design period between a student committee, faculty and Barnes and Noble representatives.

The collaboration between TCU and Barnes and Noble makes the new bookstore the only one of its kind like it in the United States, Lewis said.

It is a joint venture, she explained, where TCU owns the building but Barnes and Noble will finance it.

Lewis said she saw the new bookstore becoming a meeting place for students and one of the great parts of campus when it is completed in

late December 2007 or early 2008.

She said there will be an outdoor patio and park to make the space more attractive. Glass will cover the exterior of the building, including part of the patio, which will have misters spraying water, ceiling fans and heaters to make the cafe a comfortable year-round meeting place.

The cafe will have 150 seats encompassing both indoor and outdoor areas, the general reading section will be quadrupled and the mezzanine will be dedicated to textbooks and a study area, Lewis said.

Lewis also said the new textbook section will be better organized, making it easier for students to find books.

Tara Wanzeck and Morgan Murrah, freshman nursing majors, said they are looking forward to the new cafe to socialize and study.

See BOOKSTORE, page 2

Professor continues conservation effort on Web

By AUNDREA EICHMAN
Staff Reporter

A professor is creating a Web site that will enable users around the world to calculate their cars' carbon emissions.

"The purpose of envirofootprint.org is to raise awareness about sustainability issues on campus, in our community and around the world," said Keith Whitworth, a sociology professor and the creator of the Purple Bike Program.

The Web site, which will be ready in three weeks, will use a calculator designed to determine carbon emissions from automobiles and provide an opportunity to offset those emissions with monetary donations, Whitworth said.

Donations will go toward purchasing trees both in the community and in Costa Rica, and toward the Purple Bike Program, which enables the TCU community to rent out bikes, Whitworth said.

Unlike other similar sites, Whitworth said, his will show where donations are being utilized. A percentage will appear as to how much money will go toward a bike or tree, which both cost about \$500, Whitworth said.

Donations will be taken from the Web site by credit card and money will go directly to the programs, Whitworth said.

Michael Slattery, director of the Institute for Environmental Studies, said the Web site will allow people to see what their own ecological impacts are.

Slattery said Whitworth's site will be similar to myfootprint.org, which shows how much of an environmental 'footprint' users will leave and how many planets would be needed to support their lifestyles.

"People do not really think about what it takes to sustain our lifestyle," Slattery said.

The majority of citizens live a consumptive lifestyle and do

See WHITWORTH, page 2

Student starts service organization; aims to help youth

By ASHER FOGLE
Staff Reporter

After watching the film "Freedom Writers," one student was motivated to create a group with the hopes of impacting children throughout the Fort Worth area.

Jason Jacobus recently joined several other students to start F.R.O.G.S. for Our Future, a new student organization on campus.

F.R.O.G.S. stands for "Frogs Respect Our Grow-

ing Society." The organization aims to provide guidance for students who want to help area youth and act as a liaison between students and local community service organizations, said Jacobus, a senior psychology major.

"So many times we forget about the kids because they don't have a voice in society yet," Jacobus said. "We will do anything we can to help the youth of the area see their

potential and have the confidence to achieve it."

Jacobus said members will be able to work with fundraising, mentoring, tutoring and service projects.

The group received approval from Student Development Services Tuesday night to become an official on-campus organization, Jacobus said.

F.R.O.G.S. has partnered with The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Fort Worth to pro-

vide opportunities for students to volunteer.

One of the seven branches of the club is in the Butler Housing Community, where there are opportunities to paint, put up new basketball goals and landscape, said Courtney Bryan, volunteer coordinator at The Boys and Girls Club.

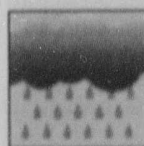
Bryan also said students would be able to help with homework and participate in mentoring activities.

"F.R.O.G.S. for Our Future sounds like such a blessing because they really could turn the building around so that it is up to par with the other branches," Bryan said.

Bryan said supplies for the various projects, such as paint and equipment, could be obtained through donations and fund raising.

The program will not require

See FROGS, page 2



WEATHER

TODAY: AM Showers, 47/33
FRIDAY: AM Clouds / PM Sun, 48/26
SATURDAY: Partly Cloudy, 39/28

PECULIAR FACT

WESTERVILLE, Ohio — A high school lunch period was disrupted Monday by a greased, naked student running around screaming until police stunned him twice, authorities said. — ASSOCIATED PRESS

TODAY'S HEADLINES

OPINION: Pros and Cons of McCain, page 3
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SPORTS: Men's basketball plays San Diego State, page 6

CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments, complaints and hot tips to the staff at NEWS2SKIFF@TCU.EDU

SAC

From page 1

changes since it started in 2002, Kirchoff said he thinks it has found the perfect lineup.

"There wasn't room for eight members, and there was drama with the guys," Kirchoff said. "We have never had a great four-person show either. Six is a great number."

Despite changes in venues, lineups and skits, one thing

hasn't changed: the price.

SAC will continue to put on the performances for free, Kirchoff said.

"When Andrew Hamer started this group, he wanted to put on free performances for the campus," Kirchoff said. "We are all poor college students, so even if it was a dollar, people might still be unsure to go."

In April, the troupe will perform a special "surprise" show, Kirchoff said. Members aren't allowed to say

what they will be doing but are excited to put on that performance, he said.

Although the group has gone through many changes, faculty adviser Kathy Hamer said the group remains as close as ever.

The troupe even circles up for prayer before every show, Hamer said.

"There is just a goodness in them," Hamer said. "They never let anyone down, and they have always been real close."

WHITWORTH

From page 1

not understand what the carbon cycle is, Slattery said. It is a natural, biogeochemical cycle, which goes well beyond driving cars that do not get enough miles per gallon, he said.

"We're adding to that cycle in a very disproportionate way since we have such an expensive lifestyle," Slattery said.

Slattery said carbon is released into the atmosphere through homes, waste and

public transport, which is all built into a fairly complex equation.

The money from myfootprint.org is taken to reinvest in renewable energy, such as envirofootprint.org will do for the Purple Bike Program and the rainforest, Slattery said.

Slattery said, knowing Whitworth, the Web site will be efficient and user-friendly.

Whitworth said there is a team of nine students currently working on the Web site.

Jamie Phelps, a TCU graduate, did the initial design

for the Web site, and said he taught Whitworth how to take over the site's content, once the program progresses.

The cost to host the Web site is funded by the Vision In Action grant Whitworth received for the Purple Bike Program.

Whitworth said, in the future, he would like the carbon-offset program to also show how many bags of charcoal users are emitting into the air and how many trees will need to be planted to offset the emissions.

BOOKSTORE

From page 1

"It will be nice to have a real book store instead of the trailers," Murrah said.

Before the new bookstore can be built, however, the temporary store has to make room by moving to the site of the old bookstore, Lewis said.

The bookstore staff is urging students to complete their textbook shopping before Feb. 8 because the textbook trailers will be the first to move, shutting down textbook sales through Feb. 11.

Lewis said the entire bookstore will be closed Feb. 10 and 11 while the rest of the trailers are moved.

KITCHENS

From page 1

so we'd need to have more space."

Love said a Campus Kitchens manager from the national office told TCU in May it would be a feasible location once the new kitchen is built in Spring 2008.

"They definitely think we could house a program," Love said. "They would fund the program for three years, so we'd really need to develop a partnership with the national group."

Love said her group has discussed possible beneficia-

ries of the project, such as after-school programs and homeless shelters that do not offer meals.

If TCU gets a kitchen, Flores said, a national launch team would be sent out to supervise during its first weeks.

Love said she believes the premise of the program fulfills the university's mission statement "to be ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community."

"What better way to be responsible (citizens) than to be aware of the fact that we have plenty to eat here on this campus and others don't," she said.

FROGS

From page 1

students to pay a membership fee, Jacobus said.

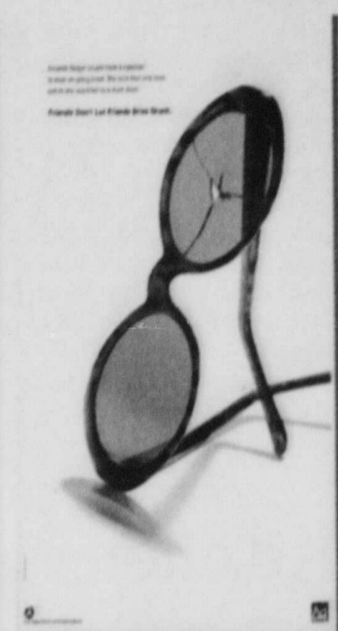
F.R.O.G.S. for Our Future has a Facebook group with more than 250 members. The group's page has information about the organization's goals and meetings, which are tentatively scheduled to begin Feb. 13.

"Sometimes students view TCU as an apathetic campus," said Scott Nichols, a junior advertising/public relations major, "so whenever students take the initiative to do something for others it sparks interest across campus."

The group members hope to eventually work with other non-profit organizations, such as Cook Children's Medical Center, Ronald McDonald House Charities and the YMCA, to contribute to a wider range of local children, Jacobus said.

"We want people who are looking for their niche in order to help kids ... because they love kids," Jacobus said.

"Many of us can remember those people from our childhood that impacted us, and I wanted to create a forum for student body and faculty from TCU to become that person for the youth in this area."



Check out Tomorrow's Paper for a preview of
TCU SPRING SPORTS

Chi Omega

CHI OMEGA WISHES TO CONGRATULATE THEIR NEWLY INITIATED MEMBERS!

Katie Albers	Ashley Forrest	Addison Moss
Margaret Baird	Morgan Grall	Erin Nelson
Kalyn Baldwin	Maddison Grigsby	Ellie Neuhaus
Sydne Baumgart	Ruth Guerra	Kathleen Perley
Stephanie Bazbaz	Victoria Hales	Emily Peterman
Cecile Bishop	Elise Hall	Blake Pierce
Kristen Bossung	Lauren Hensarling	Merillat Pittman
Paige Bryant	Emily Kiltz	Brighton Richie
Caitlin Burns	Kelly Kottwitz	Becca Saenz
Emily Chilson	Maggie Lamberth	Melissa Sheehy
Laura Daniels	Kate Lunati	Mackenzie Short
Andi Dean	Chrissy Mason	Blair Tackett
Lizzie Dow	Katie McCann	Laura Thompson
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TCU DAILY SKIFF
 TCU Box 298050, Fort Worth, TX 76129
 Phone: (817) 257-7428 Fax: (817) 257-7133
 E-mail: news@skiff.tcu.edu

Editor in Chief: Adrienne Lang
Managing Editor: John-Laurent Tronche
Associate Editor: Leslie Honey
Copy Desk Chief: Michael Dodd
News Editors: Andrew Chavez, Aly Fleet

Opinion Editor: Lindsay Bever
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Tyler Fultz

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Editorial E

JOHN-LAURE

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."
— Scott Adams

THE SKIFF VIEW

University should disclose full sustainability results

TCU was graded by the Sustainable Endowment Institute, and the grade the university received would send any parent running toward a parent-teacher conference.

Overall, the university scored a D but was hit with an F in two areas concerning investment practices.

The institute evaluated the university endowment's ability to meet the needs of the present without impairing future generations.

While the institute credited the university for environmentally-friendly practices, such as compost yard waste and building new facilities that are environmentally sound, the study faulted the university heavily for its investment practices.

While the institute's analysis definitely has its faults, there's merit in its evaluation of the university's policy on disclosing investment information.

The study took issue with the university's strict non-disclosure policy about its investment practices.

It's clearly a legitimate complaint. The reality is that nobody really knows whether the university's financial practices are environmen-

tally beneficial or not.

But it's hard to fault the university for not eagerly disclosing the information. As administrators have said, doing so puts the university at a competitive disadvantage.

The institute makes a well-reasoned suggestion, though. They recommend a delayed-disclosure policy.

Such a policy would allow the university to release information that is somewhat out of date and doesn't put the university at a competitive disadvantage but still allows those concerned with the university's investment practices to analyze them in retrospect.

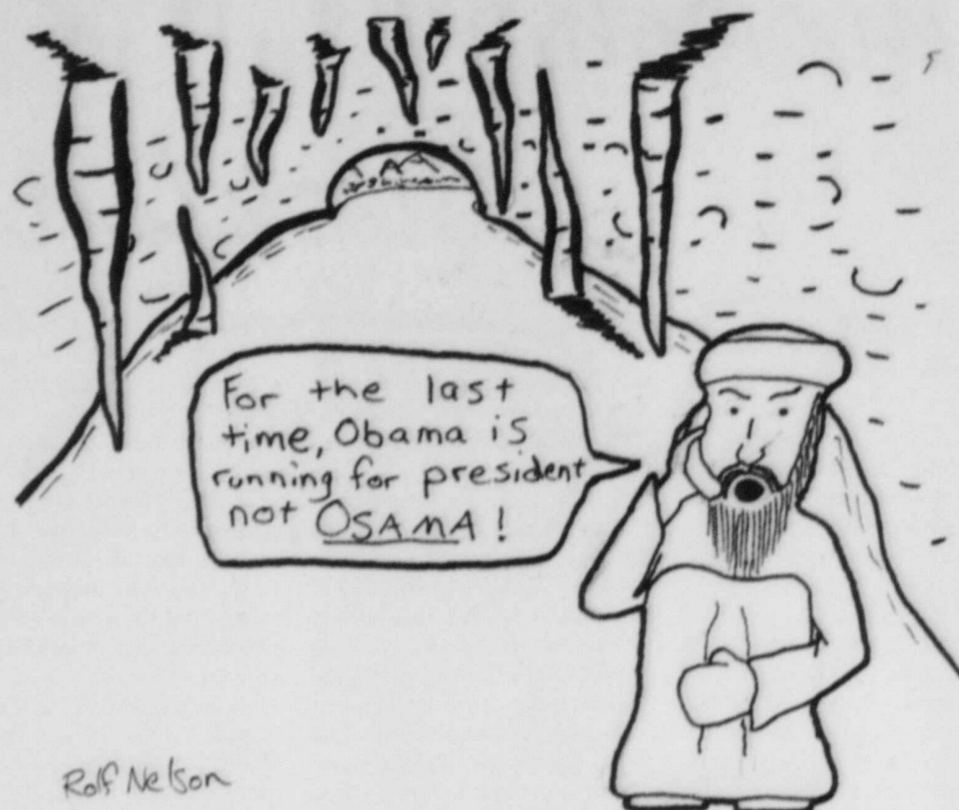
It's possible the university is investing money in renewable-energy funds and community-development loans just like the study recommends.

It's also possible, though, the endowment's funds are being invested in areas that are environmentally harmful. Hopefully, that's not the case.

Either way, nobody will ever know under a strict non-disclosure policy.

News editor Andrew Chavez for the editorial board.

OOOFSPOOF BY ROLF NELSON



Rolf Nelson

Current senator's track record deserves 2008 nomination, win

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is the best candidate for president in 2008.

He has numerous advantages over the candidates of the last decade, including a heroic military service record and broad, bipartisan appeal.

COMMENTARY



Tyler Fultz

While he currently trails in the polls behind former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, he has the appeal, experience and charisma to lead the country.

McCain is a decorated war veteran and a hero of the Vietnam War. If he is elected, we could finally break from the relative cop-outs of President George W. Bush and former President Bill Clinton. When offered a pardon early on, McCain refused and spent five more years in a Vietnamese prison (1967-1973). A man who refused to be repatriated to America simply because he was the son of an admiral defies moral reproach. He is currently one of only four Vietnam veterans in the Senate.

McCain's Senate career has earned him a reputation as a bipartisan negotiator who is not always willing to tow the party line. Though consistently a hawk on foreign policy and an opponent of abortion, he has opposed Bush on global warming and gay marriage. He believes in the urgency of global warming and voted against both the Federal Marriage Amendment, which would

have banned gay marriage by constitutional amendment, and oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

He has argued consistently for reducing the size of the government deficit rather than expanding it as Bush has done. He has also consistently opposed the administration's policies on torture — something McCain experienced himself — and worked to reform the military's manuals on the subject. These efforts distance McCain from the majority of Republican senators who have been willing to accept whatever agenda Bush proposes. Through his efforts, he has gained so much appeal that the New York Times reported that Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., asked McCain to be his running mate in 2004.

McCain lost the 2000 primary to Bush, but this was in a time fundamentally different from 2008.

By the time the election rolls around next year, the voting public will likely become more unhappy with the far-right president currently in office. McCain can use his bipartisan appeal to his advantage over Republican primary voters who, after the mid-term elections, will see the need for change. In 2008, religious conservatives will not hold the sway they did, and this will give McCain the edge he needs to take the Republican nomination. McCain is also the most recognizable of the current Republican candidates and has an edge over the rela-

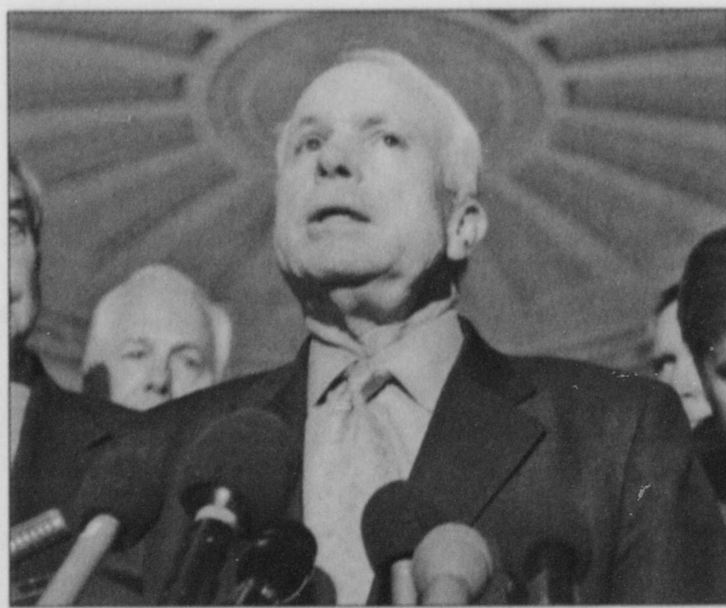
tively unknown Republican challengers.

Personally, I cannot think of a man better for the White House than one who has served five years in a Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp, adopted a Bangladeshi orphan and stood in principled opposition to the excesses of the current administration.

McCain's election would give the United States a sorely needed turn back to the center and away from the rabid partisan politics that have reigned since Clinton took office. It is especially important that moderate Republicans turn out to vote in the primaries.

To let the party choose another candidate affiliated with the far-right religious wing of the party would be disastrous.

Tyler Fultz is a senior history and political science major from Indianapolis.

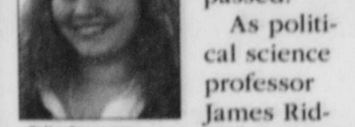


Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

McCain not right for White House with controversial stance on issues

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has already had his chance to run for president and lost the Republican nomination to President George W. Bush in 2000.

I have a great deal of respect for this Arizona senator and former prisoner of war, but his time has passed.



Talia Sampson

As political science professor James Riddlesperger once said, it is hard for someone who has served in the Senate to run for president because his voting history gives his opponents a source of ammunition to use against him.

Take the recent example of his vote of support for the Lieberman Amendment to establish a Senate Office of Public Integrity, which

failed on Jan. 18.

Of the 49 Republicans in the Senate, he was one of only five to vote for the amendment.

And, while I would applaud his intentions, I would also point out that voting the opposite of your party is no way to garner party support for a presidential nomination.

It is true that McCain is on the same page as the GOP when it comes to the Iraq War, which I predict will top the list as the biggest campaign issue in 2008.

"McCain, meanwhile, has been an outspoken defender of President Bush's plan to send an additional 21,500 troops to Iraq, arguing that more troops are needed for success," according to a recent Associated Press article.

Although this stance reflects the views of the current administration, it does not reflect the views of the American people, who are looking for a viable exit strategy.

Then there's the fact that former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani is currently beating McCain in the polls, according to PollingReport.com.

Although I still maintain the position I held last Thursday, that it is still too early for the polls to be a strong indication of who will earn his or her party's nomination, the fact that Giuliani is ahead brings up a few interesting points.

The most obvious being that the emotional factor of the September 11, 2001, ter-

rorist attacks still resonate in the hearts of the American people.

The fact that Giuliani was in New York fulfilling his responsibilities as mayor when the attacks occurred is a huge plus in his favor.

McCain's Presidential Exploratory Committee Web site, exploremccain.com, does not talk about 9/11. Instead, it focuses on his five years as a POW during the Vietnam War.

This has great potential for some interesting campaign rhetoric between Rudy "Terrorists can't stop me" Giuliani and Sen. John "American Hero" McCain.

But, as we saw in 2004 with Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., having a Purple Heart does not win an election.

Then there's the fact that McCain lost the Republican nomination in 2000 to Bush.

Although there have been a select few presidents who won after losing previously, this still gives Giuliani the upper hand.

I'll be honest and say I truly do like McCain and would support him over Giuliani, but I just do not see most Republicans agreeing with me.

McCain is too much of a moderate and has worked too closely with Democrats on hot-topic issues, such as immigration, to gather the absolute support of the Republican Party.

Talia Sampson is a junior news-editorial journalism and international relations major from Moorpark, Calif. Her column appears on Thursdays.

Transplant should be debated because of safety issues not ethics

Doctors in New York say they intend to attempt the first uterus transplant in the U.S., leading some physicians to question the ethics of transplanting reproductive organs.

The fact that some people will be revolted by the notion should not drive the debate. Instead, it should be driven by the safety of the procedure, the benefits it would produce and a clear set of guidelines for consent of both the donor and the recipient.

Societies have been

debating medical ethics since the days of Greek philosophers. Examples of medical atrocities abound throughout history. But so do objections to once controversial practices now common and accepted as beneficial, including anesthesia, heart transplants and in-vitro fertilization.

The safety standard for uterus transplants should be more stringent than for transplants that potentially save lives. But a woman's ability to choose whether to proceed with a surgery

that would enable her to experience one of life's greatest moments should also be a strong consideration.

The doctors' decision to move forward may be premature. Scientists report that efforts at uterus transplants in mammals have been limited in number and they have not been successful in helping animals become pregnant, much less deliver healthy offspring.

Doctors in Saudi Arabia performed the first human uterus transplant in 2002

on a 26-year-old woman who wanted to have a second child.

The donor was a woman who had ovarian cysts and approved donating her uterus. Doctors were forced to remove the transplanted uterus 99 days later when the blood supply to the organ stopped.

Transplanting a uterus is considered more dangerous than some other transplants because of the nature of the organ. A small number of blood vessels supply blood to the

uterus, rather than a single major blood vessel, making the surgical procedure more challenging.

Doctors hope to devise procedures that would limit the risk and prove to be reliable.

Dr. Giuseppe Del Priore of New York University rightly pointed out to a New York Times reporter that doctors performing the first in-vitro fertilization procedures had to overcome a wide range of obstacles before they became commonplace.

Uterus transplants can

involve more complex issues than cornea transplants. Donors will need to be clear about their willingness to participate, and recipients will need to receive adequate information about the risks.

If the procedure can be demonstrated to be safe and effective, and if consent issues can be resolved, then uterus transplants should be available to women who can't otherwise give birth.

The following editorial appeared in the San Jose Mercury News on Jan. 29. This article was distributed by MCT.

Editorial Board

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AMBER PARCHER

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Smokin' & Sizzlin'

'Aces' gives accurate look into mafia life with star-studded cast

By MICHAEL DODD
Copy Desk Chief

Looking back through the history of film, one can easily notice the evolution from methodical films of the past to the new fast-paced pictures of today that cater to the instant-gratification needs of today's youth.

"Smokin' Aces" epitomizes this growing trend even when tackling the seedy world of the mob, a genre that has, in the past, produced extremely long, meticulous films such as "Goodfellas" and the genre's flagship "The Godfather."

While "Aces" is a fast-paced step away from the traditional movies about La Cosa Nostra, it succeeds in producing a realis-

tic portrayal, interspersed with situational comedy, of a world most likely unseen by the general public.

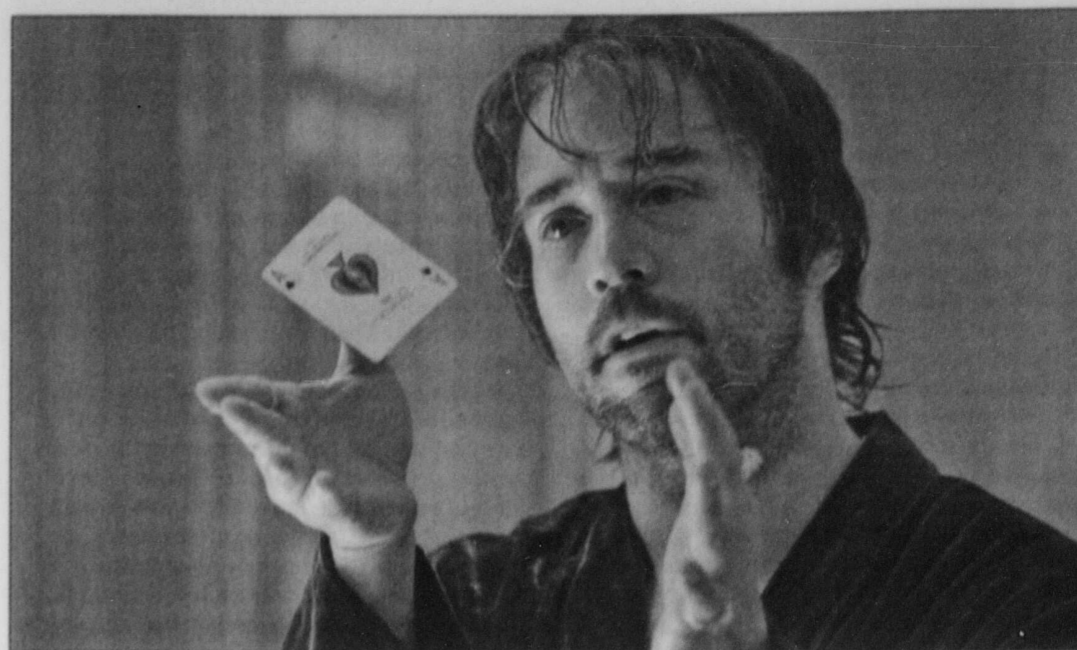
Starring Ryan Reynolds ("Van Wilder" and "Just Friends"), Jeremy Piven ("Two for the Money" and TV's "Entourage") and Ray Liotta ("Goodfellas" and "Narc"), "Aces" is the story of Buddy "Aces" Israel, an extremely strung-out and coked-up Las Vegas magician-turned-mafiosa-turned-snitch. There is a bevy of ultra-skilled assassins intent on wrangling him in hopes of scoring a \$1 million bounty placed on his head by Primo Sparazza, the mob boss he is preparing to turn on in

exchange for immunity from the FBI.

"Aces" also features Ben Affleck ("Jersey Girl" and "Daredevil") and singer/songwriter Alicia Keys. It was written and directed by Joe Carnahan, who also wrote and directed 2002's "Narc," which delved into the world of narcotics crime control.

"Aces" harkens back to the grand old days of mob films in which viewers are privy to the extravagance of the lifestyle coupled with the sense of loyalty, distrust and ruthlessness associated with the mafia.

But where the film slightly falters is in its expositional finale. After nearly 90 minutes



Jeremy Piven spins a tale as the target of a superstar cast of hitmen in "Smokin' Aces," a fast-paced mafia movie.

of seeing an onslaught of hit attempts on Israel, in which about half of the credited cast, as well as a number of dispensable police officers, meet their demise, the filmmakers try to surprise viewers by presenting them with twists that come out of nowhere.

Even with the seeming-

ly over-the-top comedic elements of a rather gruesomely cold-blooded film, the twist of Israel's connection to Sparazza and the FBI's real association in the preceding events is the first moment in which a viewer truly might question the reality of the film.

But this ending doesn't dimin-

ish the enjoyment this film can produce for its viewers. By combining gratuitous violence, gore and nudity with an honest-enough look into the mafia, "Aces" ensures fans of the genre that the mob film is still alive and well, a fate not many of the characters in the film face.

★★★★

Werewolf romance no Oscar contender

By MARK FARRIS
Staff Writer

The new chick flick "Blood and Chocolate" will meet the expectations of budding romantics but not veteran moviegoers.

From the producers of both "Underworld" movies, this film leaps into the world of werewolves.

But, in this film, there is a new spin.

The creatures are not vicious, blood-sucking animals but humans with the mystical ability to transform into wolves.

There is also an underlying Romeo-and-Juliet-esque romance. Star-crossed lover Vivian, played by Agnes Bruckner (TV's "Law and Order: Criminal Intent"), is a werewolf who must keep her identity secret to the outside world. This prevents her from forming a relationship with a human who must not know her true identity.

This movie is not Oscar material but it met my expectations. I expected it to be very light and fun with a little romance. That is exactly what it was.

"Blood and Chocolate" is nothing



Oliver Martinez and Agnes Bruckner co-star in the romance film, "Blood and Chocolate."

like the "Underworld" films. The rating of "Underworld" carries with it a lot of gore and nudity.

"Blood and Chocolate," rated PG-13, cuts out certain elements such as violence and nudity. The blatant lack of nudity takes away from the substance of the film.

Directors choose to exclude nudity in a romantic scene when the lovers kiss intimately and then the movie fast forwards to the next morning. This is a new trend in Hollywood—taking out a lot of the action and nudity to make the mov-

ie PG-13 and more teen-friendly.

There is also only minimal action in this film, with very few gun battles or werewolf-on-human fighting action. The film focuses mostly on this watered-down relationship between the two main characters.

So, if you like a sappy romance with a little horror minus the nudity, I would suggest this. However, if you need a little more substance for your \$7 movie ticket, I would suggest seeing something else, like an Oscar-nominated film.

★★★★

Zellweger, McGregor together again to portray creation of Peter Rabbit

By KIMBERLY BURTON
Staff Writer

Chris Noonan's whimsical and charming film "Miss Potter" is guaranteed to enchant audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Enter the world of Beatrix Potter, beloved author and artist of "The Tale of Peter Rabbit," among many other children's books. Potter was also an accomplished artist and philanthropist, who donated lands to the National Trust of Great Britain.

"Potter" gives us a glimpse into the eccentric Victorian woman's life, inspiration and her deep love for her fiancée Warne.

Noonan, best known for his film "Babe," allows the audience to delve deep into their imaginations and go along on the journey of Potter and her friends, Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddle-Duck and Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle.

Renee Zellweger ("Cold Mountain") and Ewan McGregor ("Moulin Rouge") team up together again as Potter and her editor and fiancée Norman Warne.

Zellweger plays the part of the independent, plucky artist well—somewhat similar to her role of Bridget Jones in "Bridget Jones Diary."

McGregor steps into the role as her editor with a quiet exuberance. The chem-

istry between Zellweger and

McGregor is much more subtle than when they starred in "Down With

Love" together, but it is just as potent. Warne's sister Millie is played by Emily Watson ("Punch Drunk Love"). Watson does an excellent job playing the odd-ball spinster and Potter's best friend.

Noonan's animated characters bring magical charm to this movie as they wink, blink and scurry across Potter's canvasses. The audience is allowed to step into the fantastical realm of Potter's imagination.

This film is one for all ages. Whether you read Potter's books as a child or are just a child at heart, this movie will delight and enthrall you.



THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY AND PHOENIX PICTURES
Renee Zellweger stars in "Miss Potter."

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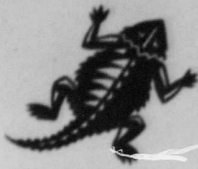
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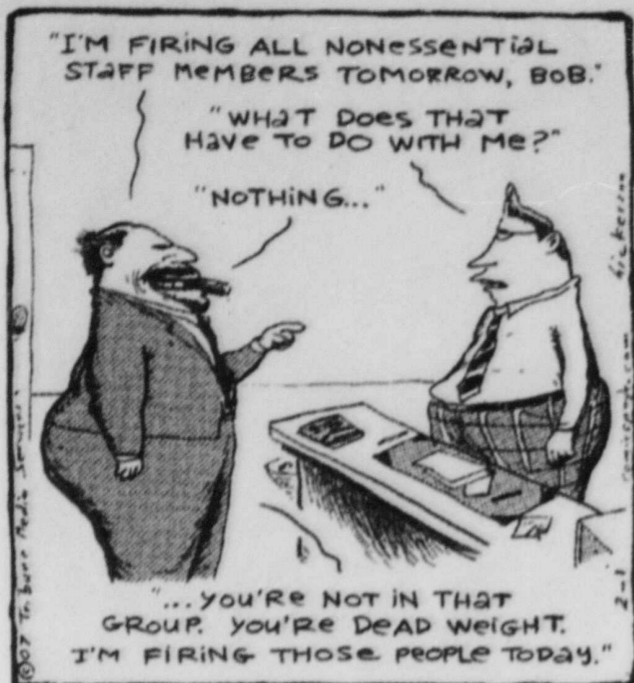
WORTH A LAUGH — BUT ONLY ONE

Q: How does the gingerbread man make his bed?

A: With cookie sheets.

The Quigmans

by Buddy Hickerson



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				6	3			2
3	4							6
				9				
	5						2	8
9			1	3				
		3			4	9		
				5	9	2		6

Directions

Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating numbers.

See Friday's paper for answers to today's Sudoku puzzle.

Wednesday's Solutions

5	2	6	3	1	9	7	8	4
9	7	3	2	8	4	6	5	1
8	4	1	5	7	6	3	9	2
2	3	4	1	6	5	8	7	9
7	6	9	8	4	2	5	1	3
1	8	5	7	9	3	2	4	6
4	1	8	6	2	7	9	3	5
3	9	2	4	5	8	1	6	7
6	5	7	9	3	1	4	2	8

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ACROSS

- Body covering
- More opposite
- Recipe ants.
- Actress Bancroft
- Wheel turner
- Foil maker
- Ritz rival
- Losing cause?
- Lathered up
- Start of a quip
- Money on the line
- Pick up
- U.K. lexicon
- Violent conflicts
- Pathfinder's planet
- Sun, oration
- Worldly-wise
- Grime
- Projection on a basaltic
- Part 2 of quip
- Revival cry
- Old Peruvian ruler
- Curving
- Disfigure
- Eyelid problem
- Sioux tribe
- Winter ailment
- Ode preposition
- Truck part
- End of quip
- Get on
- Word before jerk or pop
- Point after deuce
- Postal scale unit
- Words to a dealer
- Begin once again
- Chose
- Dates
- Slungulion or muligan
- Tibetan VIP
- Declare untrue
- Bushy do of the '60s
- Bum from
- Alma
- On the schedule

DOWN

- Hindu title of respect
- Butter cutter
- Up the creek
- Old Dodge model
- Grown girls
- Be real
- Whole lot
- Adam's third son
- Small samples
- Dracula's drink
- Main artery
- "Rape of the Lock" poet
- Utter
- Bayou bird
- Main artery
- Chop finely
- Operatic showstopper
- Ditzy individual
- Latin being
- Part of AARP
- Grin from ear to ear
- Equivocator's perch
- Van Halen brother
- Word to the audience
- At this point
- Masterstroke
- Search
- Garage-sale caveat
- Alaskan seaport
- Supports for glasses
- Meadow call

By Victor Fleming
Little Rock, AR
2/1/07

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RUMOR NASA LAOS
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DOLPHINS VIKINGS
AAR IRR
PATRIOTS SEAGLES
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See Friday's paper for answers to today's crossword.

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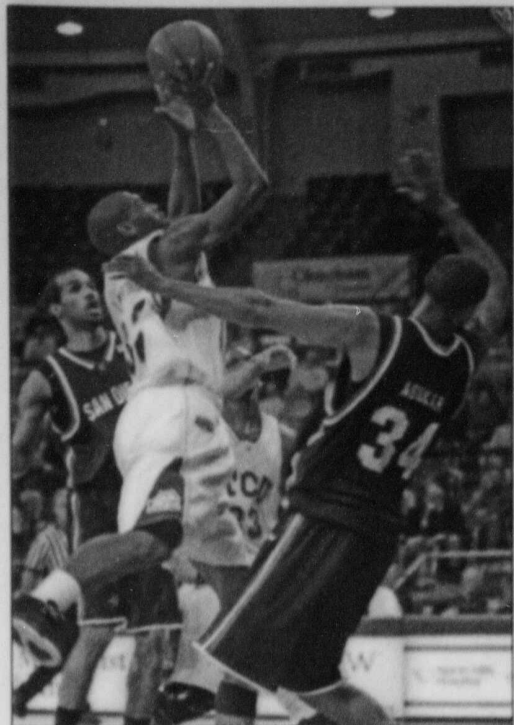
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Frogs' 10-4 start fizzles; six losses even record



ROBYN SHEPHERD / Staff Photographer
 Kevin Langford, sophomore forward, drives toward the basket and over a San Diego State defender in Wednesday's game versus the Aztecs.

By MARCUS MURPHREE
 Sports Editor

After five straight losses, the Horned Frogs frustrations continued mounting as TCU dropped its sixth straight conference game.

The quick-strike offense and athleticism of the San Diego State Aztecs kept the Frogs at bay for all 40 minutes, ending in a 76-71 final score.

From the field, senior guard Brandon Heath was like the plague against the Frogs as he made 22 points on the night,

putting the Frogs in a deficit that was impossible to overcome.

The joint effort Aztecs sophomore forward Lorenzo Wade and senior forward Mohamed Abukar put a hurting on the Frogs as the big men combined for 36 points.

The silver lining for the Frogs came from admirable performances by junior shooting guard Neiman Owens and junior point guard Ryan Wall.

Wall was nearly untouchable from beyond the perimeter as he helped break the Frogs shooting slump by making 75 percent of his 3-pointers. Owens and Wall both had 16 points.

Helping out under the rim was sophomore forward Kevin Langford who had nine rebounds as well as 12 points.

Though Owens eclipsed his career high in points, the valiant effort still led to a loss.

The Frogs' fouls on the Aztecs ended up putting San Diego State on the free-throw line where the sharp-shooting Aztecs converted 14 of their 18 shots from the charity line.

The next game is at 7 p.m. Saturday as the Frogs will look for redemption in the second half of conference play against the Utah Utes.

The last time the two teams faced off was on Jan. 6 in Salt Lake City when the Frogs won 71-68.

H2O Frogs take three-week hiatus



BILLY WESSELS / Photo Editor
 Alejandro Gomez, senior, won the 1,000-meter freestyle against Utah on Jan. 13. TCU swimming and diving teams do not have another meet until the Mountain West Conference championships in Oklahoma City on Feb. 21 through Feb. 24.

By MARCUS MURPHREE
 Sports Editor

As the H2O Frogs continue to wait for the Mountain West Conference Championships, the team is in the midst of a three-week break from official competition. This is the longest time without a meet since their 28-day hiatus from Nov. 18 through Dec. 16 last fall.

Head coach Richard Sybesma said the break will be beneficial to the team.

"We have had lots of meets since school started," Sybesma said. "But the break will do us good both mentally and physically."

During the time off, the team will begin taper training, in which the team will gradually reduce their yardage as well as their intensity level during practice, Sybesma said.

"We were overtraining, but now we are training less and getting more and more rested," Sybesma said. "You rest

to a point at which you peak."

The team is training both in and out of the pool in an effort to perfect the smaller details of its game.

"There is greater focus on perfection of the mental rehearsal of the races right now," Sybesma said.

Sybesma said he was confident in how the team will perform at the conference meet.

"Our relays will be very strong at conference, and we have some individuals who will do well too," Sybesma said.

Included on his list of swimmers who are expected to fare well are seniors Erica Tate, Alejandro Gomez, Guillermo Ramirez and Aran Bean.

During the past two seasons, Tate has been named the H2O Frogs' most valuable swimmer and has earned recognition as the Mountain West Conference Women's Swimmer of the Week on multiple occasions.

Though conference is 20 days away, Sybesma said he has a good feeling about what the meet will have in store for the team.

"As a coach, you have a good feel for what's going on," Sybesma said. "We're going to peak at the right time."

Before heading off to Oklahoma City, Okla., the H2O Frogs had to reduce their travel squad size to 18 swimmers per team.

"It was a very hard choice, but I had to make a decision best for the team," Sybesma said.

His final choice was made while watching his swimmers at the North Texas dual meet on Jan. 24 and the Century meet on Jan. 26.

The five swimmers who were cut from the conference squad still had a final chance to perform, Sybesma said.

"The five that aren't going to conference will have a time trial today (Wednesday) to finish out their season."

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